

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 SAM-01 SAJ-01 /089 W

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R 291434Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION USBERLIN

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AMBESSY BUDAPEST 2706

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

CINCEUR

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL MUNICH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CH, GE, UR, US, AO, TU, CSCE

SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS SUMMARY - DEC 25 - 29

1. SUMMARY.

--SOVIET PRESS TREATMENT OF U.S. OVER THE HOLIDAYS WAS LESS THAN CHARITABLE, WITH CIA AND FBI THE MAJOR TARGETS.

-- ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES OF THE WEST CONTINUE AS A FAVORITE SUBJECT, ESPECIALLY TO WRAP UP A YEAR WHICH BROUGHT THE USSR ANOTHER HARVEST DISASTER.

--IZVESTIYA'S MATVEYEV AND A HIGH RANKING CENTRAL COMMITTEE STAFFER CONTINUE THE ARBATOV LINE ON CSCE, DETENTE, AND THEIR RELATIONS TO NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS (SEPTEL).

--PRAVDA (DEC 29) PARROTS THE KHLESTOV/LEHODA REACTION TO OPTION III IN MBFR (SEPTEL).

--IN EXTREMELY HEAVY COVERAGE, SOUTH AFRICA HAS RETURNED AS THE PRINCIPAL CULPRIT IN ANGOLA, BUT EDITORIAL COMMENTS JUSTIFYING SOVIET SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS ARE OBVIOUSLY AIMED AT REBUTTING U.S. STATEMENTS WHICH URGED A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT AND WITHDRAWAL OF ALL OUTSIDE FORCES (SEPTEL).

--COVERAGE OF COMRADELY PARTIES IS HIGHLIGHTED BY OBLIQUE YET FORCEFUL SLAP AT NATIONALIST SENTIMENTS IN GDR.

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--LIGHT COVERAGE OF MIDDLE EAST CENTERS ON KOSYGIN IN TURKEY, BUT ALSO INCLUDES ANOTHER IMPLIED KICK AT SADAT'S "OPEN DOOR."

--PRAVDA (DEC 28) REPORTS THE CHINESE RELEASE OF THE SOVIET HELICOPTER CREW, AND REPLAYS THE SOVIET LINE THAT THE HELICOPTER HAD GONE ASTRAY WHILE ON A MERCY MISSION (SEPTEL).

--THE CPSU SENT GREETINGS TO THE INDIAN COMMUNIST PARTY (CPI) ON THE LATTER'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY; THE MESSAGE PRAISED THE CPI'S COOPERATION WITH THE LEFT CONGRESS AND MRS. GANDHI. PRAVDA CARRIES AN ACCOMPANYING ARTICLE BY CPI GENERAL SECRETARY RAO.

2. UNITED STATES. CHRISTMAS CHARITY WAS NOT EVIDENT IN THE PRESS'S COVERAGE OF THE U.S. DURING THIS PERIOD AS BLUNT CRITICISM OF U.S. DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICY CONTINUES AT THE RECENT HIGH LEVEL. A REPRESENTATIVE THOUGH NOT EXHAUSTIVE LIST OF ARTICLES (OTHER THAN THOSE ATTACKING U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA); IZVESTIYA (DEC 24) CRITICIZES FBI HARASSMENT OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, CALLING U.S. CLAIMS TO SUPPORT DEMOCRACY HYPOCRITICAL; THE SAME PAPER SAYS THAT THE "LEGEND" PROPAGANDIZED AT HOME AND ABROAD BY THE U.S. THAT IS IS "BETTER THAN OTHERS MORALLY AND POLITICALLY" IS DYING AS EVIDENCE OF EGO-CENTRIC VICES AND ECONOMIC TROUBLES INHERENT IN THE U.S. SOCIAL SYSTEM BECAME MORE APPARENT: PRAVDA (DEC 25) SEES UNSAVORY FINANCIAL LINKS BETWEEN FRANZ JOSEPH STRAUSS AND THE U.S. MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX; IZVESTIYA (DEC 26) CALLS THE SENATE A "CLUB OF RICH MEN" PROTECTING THEIR OWN INTERESTS; AND KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (DEC 26) CARRIES ATTACKS ON THE CIA TO THE FURTHER EXTREME WE HAVE YET SEEN IN EXPLICITLY LINKING THAT ORGANIZATION TO ASSASSINATION ATTEMPTS ON U.S. POLITICAL FIGURES. THE ARTICLE CONTENDS THAT "NOTHING HAS CHANGED BUT THE DIRECTOR" AT THE CIA, AND THAT ITS DIRTY DEALINGS CONTINUE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD UNIMPEDED BY THE TOKEN REVELATIONS MADE DURING THE SENATE HEARINGS.

3. CRISIS OF CAPITALISM. THE PRESS CONTINUES ITS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EMPHASIS OF WESTERN ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES, AS APPROPRIATE TOPIC AT THE END OF ANOTHER DISASTER YEAR FOR THE SOVIET ECONOMY. PRAVDA (DEC 29) WRITES IN A COMMENTARY BY GEORGIY SKOROV THAT EVEN IF OECD ESTIMATES THAT THE EC AND THE U.S. WILL ENJOY MODERATE GROWTH ARE TO BE BELIEVED, AND MANY DO NOT, THEN EVEN WESTERN EXPERTS AGREE THAT UNEMPLOYMENT WILL CONTINUE TO GROW INTO 1977. PRAVDA'S (DEC 28) WEEKLY INTERNATIONAL REVIEW (RATIANI) PAINTS AN UNREMITTINGLY BLACK PICTURE FOR WESTERN ECONOMIES IN THE COMING YEAR, STRESSING IN DETAIL THE FAILURE OF THE CAPITALIST STATES IN A VARIETY OF CONFERENCES--RAMBOUILLET, THE EC ROME SUMMIT, THE NATO SESSIONS, AND CIEC--TO SOLVE INHERENT CONTRADICTIONS IN THEIR RELATIONSHIP. BUT RATIANI REAFFIRMS POINT MADE IN PLETNEV'S PRAVDA ARTICLE OCTOBER 10 THAT CRITICAL CRISES

ARE INHERENT IN CAPITALIST SYSTEM, WHICH IS NOW MARKING
150TH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST ONE IN 1825, AND SKOROV
ADMITS THAT U.S. ECONOMY TURNED UP IN THIRD QUARTER.
COMMENT. DESPITE ALL THE HANDRUBBING, MOST SOVIET COM-
MENTATORS ARE CAREFUL NOT TO COUNT CAPITALISM OUT; THE
IMPLICATION IS THAT EVOLUTION IN THE WEST IS NOT AROUND
THE CORNER. END COMMENT.

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AMEMBASSY CAIRO

CINCEUR

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

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AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LISBON

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4. COMMUNIST AFFAIRS. DEC 27 PRAVDA FRONT PAGES
TITO'S REPLY TO BREZHNEV AND PODGORNYY FOR SOVIET
CONGRATULATIONS ON YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC DAY IN WHICH HE
NOTES "WITH SPECIAL SATISFACTION THAT THANKS TO OUR
BILATERAL EFFORTS AND MUTUAL CONFIDENCE RELATIONS
BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES AND PARTIES HAVE DEEPEENED IN
ALL AREAS". DEC 28 PRAVDA REPORTS DEC 26 SIGNATURE
OF SOVIET-ROMANIAN TRADE AND PAYMENTS AGREEMENT FOR
1976-80 PROVIDING FOR TRADE TURNOVER OF 9 BILLION
RUBLES. COMMENT. THIS APPEARS TO BE HALF AGAIN AS
MUCH AS SOVIETS OFFERED IN PLAN COORDINATION AGREE-
MENT SIGNED EARLIER, AND IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO
LEARN WHAT IF ANY EFFECT IT WILL HAVE ON ROMANIAN
ATTITUDES TOWARD CEMA ISSUES. END COMMENT. MOST
INTRIGUING HOLIDAY PIECE ON COMMUNIST AFFAIRS WAS
DEC 27 IZVESTIYA TRIBUTE BY V. SEMENOV TO EAST GERMAN
HENCHMAN WILHELM PIECK ON CENTENARY OF BIRTH, WHICH
ENDS WITH A SLASH AT NATIONALIST SENTIMENT WITHIN
GDR: "COMRADE PIECK WAS AN IMPLACABLE AND MERCILESS
ENEMY OF NATIONALISM AND CHAUVINISM. HE WELL UNDER-
STOOD THAT NATIONALISM, EVEN THE SMALLEST INCLINATION
TOWARD IT, FROM WHEREVER IT CAME, WOULD BE EXTRA-
ORDINARILY DANGEROUS IN GDR CONDITIONS, TAKING THE
EXPERIENCE AND STRENGTH OF GERMAN IMPERIALISM AND
INTERNATIONAL REACTION INTO ACCOUNT. HE ALWAYS
CONSIDERED EVERY DEVIATION TOWARD NATIONALISM, EVERY
MANIFESTATION OF UNFRIENDLINESS AND INSINCERITY
TOWARD THE SOVIET UNION AS A POLITICAL CHARACTERIS-
TIC BORDERING ON BETRAYAL OF THE WORKING CLASS." THE
OCT 7 TREATY, SAYS SEMENOV, "IS A LIVING EXPRESSION
OF THIS IDEA OF W. PIECK." COMMENT. WE HAVE NO IDEA
WHAT PROVOKED THIS OUTBURST, BUT THE LANGUAGE IS THE
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MOST SEVERE WE HAVE SEEN IN SOME TIME, ESPECIALLY IN
RELATION TO A FRATERNAL PARTY. END COMMENT.

5. MIDDLE EAST. IN RELATIVELY LIGHT COVERAGE,
CENTRAL PRESS CONCENTRATES ON KOSYGIN'S OFFICIAL
TRIP TO TURKEY WHERE HE DEDICATED A METALLURGY PLANT BUILT
WITH SOVIET ASSISTANCE IN ISKENDERUN. PRAVDA (DEC 25) CARRIES
A "COLOR" STORY ON EGYPT WHICH FOCUSES ON EGYPT'S ECONOMIC
DIFFICULTIES, AND EXPRESSES SKEPTICISM THAT THE "OPEN DOOR"
WILL LEAD TO ANY SOLUTION, ALTHOUGH SADAT IS NOT CRITICIZED BY
NAME. PRAVDA (DEC 27) CARRIES A BRIEF TASS STORY FROM ADEN
THAT CITES AN MFA STATEMENT DENYING ANY SOUTH YEMENI CONNECTION
WITH THE SITUATION IN NEIGHBORING OMAN, AND LABELING AS "THREATS"
RECENT STATEMENTS BY SULTAN QABUS. PRAVDA (DEC 29) REPORTS THAT
PRESIDENT ASAD ARRIVED IN TEHRAN ON AN OFFICIAL VISIT.

6. INDIA. PRAVDA (DEC 26) FRONTPAGED THE FRATERNAL
GREETINGS FROM THE SOVIET CENTRAL COMMITTEE TO THE NATIONAL
COUNCIL OF THE CPI ON THE CPI'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY. THE MESSAGE
POINTEDLY PRAISED THE CPI'S COOPERATION WITH THE "LEFT AND DEMOCRA-
TIC FORCES OF THE COUNTRY, INCOUDING THOSE FORCES IN THE INDIAN
NATIONAL CONGRESS, CHICH SUPPORT THE PROGRESSIVE, PATRIOTIC
COURSE OF THE GOVERNMENT HEADED BY PRIME MINISTER
I. GANDHI." THE MESSAGE ALSO PRAISES THE CPI'S
OPPOSITION TO "REACTIONARY" AND "MAOIST" FORCES. THE
SAME ISSUE OF PRAVDA CARRIES AN ANNIVERSARY ARTICLE BY
CPI GENERAL SECRETARY RAO WHICH TRACES THE PARTY'S GROWTH
THROUGH THE INDEPENDENCE STRUGGLE AND SINCE. THE
ARTICLE STRONGLY ENDORSES MME. GANDHI AND HER 20 POINT
ECONOMIC PROGRAM, AND PREDICTABLY SLAPS AT THE "IMPERIALISTS"
AND THE "MAOISTS".
MATLOCK

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